

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Thursday, December 14, 2017
Regular Meeting Approved Minutes

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Fenton, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Sarah Grimm, Auditor; Jenny Talke Munyak, Treasurer

PUBLIC PRESENT: John Arsenault, Old Cemetery Task Force; Tom Hurcomb, Planning Commissioner; Nora Rubinstein, Old Cemetery Task Force

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:11 p.m.

The meeting began with the Board's first working session on the 2018-19 town budgets for general operation and highway maintenance. The Board will investigate a possible shift in compensation for Delinquent Tax Collector to be based on a commission on back taxes collected rather than a flat stipend.

H. Childress moved to recognize the work that Terry Redfield has done in the past year in animal control, and to award him the \$250 stipend budgeted for that work; C. Fenton 2nd [*Aye—Childress, Fenton, Kenyon; Abstain—Redfield; motion carried*].

We will hold the Sheriff's Department line item at \$10,000 in the budget, and propose any additional contract as a ballot item for voter approval.

Minutes: T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the November 23 meeting; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. P. Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of the December 5 special meeting; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public Comment: Tom Hurcomb presented a proposal for funding the Regional Marketing fund, which was funded by ballot item last year at \$745. The budget request for 2018 Town Meeting is the same amount. H. Childress moved to place an item on the 2018 Town Meeting for the request of \$745 for the Regional Marketing Initiative; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The Board asked Tom to follow up with other Rutland County communities that are not currently participating, such as Poultney and Wells.

Town Officers: Treasurer Munyak reports that BCBSVT will increase its 2018 individual gold plan from \$603 to \$657.15; the Board will have to decide whether to amend the FY 2018 budget to reflect an increased Town contribution for the first six months of '18. She is removing Brent Clark from VMERS contribution. The Memorial Day parade and ceremony planning group held a food sale at last weekend's craft fair, raising approximately \$200; the Treasurer will treat that as a passthrough to the Creative Economy group, who have led the planning in the past year.

Town Lands: The Old Cemetery Task Force presented its final report. The Board and task force members discussed the tree removal/trimming options, attempting to weigh different scenarios for safety and for cost. Vermont 18 VSA §5373 allows for the Town

to vote to establish a cemetery commission of three or five members. T. Redfield moved to add an item to the 2018 Town Meeting ballot that establishes a Cemetery Commission of three members, with oversight of old cemeteries and ancient burial grounds, not including the Pleasant View cemetery; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The Board will draft language for the ballot item. The Select Board thanks the Old Cemetery Task Force for its substantial and careful investigations.

The Building Committee has submitted all of its reports and instructions to the estimator. H. Childress moved to approve expenditure of up to \$200 for printed plans and other materials required by the estimator; T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Patty McWilliams has resigned from the committee, leaving a membership of ten. The Committee will not be meeting over the holidays, and will resume work at the second scheduled meeting of January.

Terry has spoken with Dave Rosa, the VT ANR municipal flood plain manager. His main concern over the West Street property is erosional damage over time. He recommends that we have a surveyor establish a base flood elevation, which ANR will use to establish buildable area.

Highway: The Town has hired seasonal, as-needed plowing and road clearing assistance from Ray Blanchard and Todd Mason, at \$17/hour with no benefits. They have already begun working in last week's snow.

With the final bills submitted, Bill is ready to submit final reimbursement requests for the Garron Road culvert. He's working on negotiations with Liftech on the recent JCB service

Bill has asked for a new budget line item for next year: \$3,000 for state construction permits, as required under the new water quality laws. He also reiterated the need for a new garage, salt & sand shed.

Solid Waste: The Transfer Station will be closed on Christmas Day, open instead on Tuesday 12/26 for regular hours.

Correspondence:

- Long Trail Engineering intermediate invoice for \$1050 for site engineering
- Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired—annual report and \$300 request for 2018
- Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department annual report and \$79,500 request for 2018
- Pleasant View Cemetery Association annual report and \$1,500 request for 2018
- Mentor Connector annual report and \$200 request for 2018
- Poultney-Mettowee Watershed annual report and \$500 request for 2018

- NewStory (formerly Rutland Women's Center) annual report and \$200 request for 2018
- Child First Advocacy Center annual report and \$400 request for 2018

Board Orders: H. Childress moved that, based on input from the Auditors, the unclaimed stipend for the fifth Select Board member be distributed evenly to the four active Board members; T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. H. Childress moved to approve the Board orders as amended by the above motion; T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Legal: Gary Kupferer has worked on a template for letters of complaint about the junk & junk vehicle ordinance. The Sheriff's Department will follow up.

Other Business: There have been two loose-dog complaints regarding the same dogs on Garron Road; Terry Redfield has followed up, but has no faith that the problem is remediated. He will ask the Sheriff's deputy to stop in and make inquiries.

There has been no interest expressed in the layout contract for the 2017 Town Report. Board members will continue outreach to find a contractor.

As of January 2018, the Federal minimum wage is raised to \$10.50 per hour; this is higher than the current rate paid for Town election workers. T. Redfield moved to raise the minimums in Middletown Springs to \$11.00 per hour; C. Fenton 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

The Board will have a special budget working session on Thursday December 21, at 7pm.

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn, P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Select Board Clerk